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upfront

■ PITCH: Former Port resident wants to run Nickel Beach

Nickel Beach proposal put on hold

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Nickel Beach may be a gem, but it needs a little polish.

And Dallas Waines is ready to invest his time and money to make that happen.

Though he lives in Toronto, Waines calls Port Colborne home — and he wants to show people why.

He grew up in the lakeside city and returns each weekend in the summer for fun in the sun at Nickel Beach.

Last week, he hoped councillors would approve his dream of turning that seasonal habitat into a career, but instead he'll have to wait a bit longer to learn his fate.

Waines, under the company name Frog in a Stock Inn, made the sole submission to the city's issued request for proposal for the beach's operations.

With a plan to improve Nickel Beach and increase its traffic, Waines wants to move back to Port Colborne alongside partner Susan Li to run the summer destination.

Targeting visitors aged 18 to 29, he plans to pack the beach by introducing volleyball courts, a beach bar, musical and fitness programs.

Despite the age of this target market, Waines stressed to



File photo

A group of St. Catharines residents enjoy the water at Port Colborne's Nickel Beach in this August 2010 file photo.

council that the beach will also remain family friendly.

Families tend to head for sand on the weekends, but he believes Nickel Beach often sits underutilized during the week.

"College/university students have part-time jobs, expendable income," he said,

suspecting they will flock to the beach Monday to Friday with the right marketing campaign including heavy social media promotion.

City staff shared concerns about the proposal in a report to council, recommending that it be denied.

Questions were raised

about inconsistencies in the projected numbers provided by the company, as well as the assistance requested from the city.

The proposal requests use of city-owned recycling and garbage bins already stored at the beach, grading of the beach three times annually

by public works staff, weekly garbage removal and 33 picnic tables. Staff estimated the requests would run the city about \$15,000.

The proposal also includes no compensation to the city for use of the property. By not compensating the city financially, this will allow the com-

pany to grow tourism through Nickel Beach to the benefit of Port Colborne, it states.

Nickel Beach, operated by the city, was in the red \$28,000 in 2012.

Despite a total projected loss of \$55,000 in the first two years to get operations up and running successfully, Waines said he's willing to take on that financial risk and has put money aside to get through the startup stage.

He's anticipating a surplus come the third year.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny recommended the issue be referred to staff for further discussion with Waines in hopes of finding a resolution.

"It looks to me like there's some opportunity here to see some improvement on the beach," she said, though she wants to ensure families are welcome to the city-owned property.

Ward 4 Coun. Barb Buttars was concerned how daylong music will impact residents living in the music and asked that the issue also be addressed during talks.

As beach season is quickly approaching, a special meeting of council could be called to deal with the issue in the near future.

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BUMP-OUTS

'Curb extensions are not the best idea'

FROM PAGE 1

"To support you and your idea," said Ward 3 Coun. Frank Danch, who owns a business on the recently redesigned Main St., which now includes bump-outs. "To me, curb extensions

are not the best idea."

"With I can't help people about this issue, I'm taken aback by the anger I see," said resident Mabel Livingstone, who also spoke to council in hopes of seeing bump-outs curbed.

She questioned why the city would pursue a design that the belief of citizens do not approve of.

"Anger is a strong word," said Mayor Vance Badaway, who felt it was inappropriate. Creation of the CIP

included input from many people in the community, he said.

"Let's replace anger with working together and try to come up with a solution. I encourage people instead of getting angry to get involved."

While the BIA supports the design, it has encouraged its members to share individual concerns and observations with city council, said chair Tony Spiteri on Thursday.

The bump-outs, he added, are meant to be not only

visually appealing but also serve as a mechanical recommendation for pedestrian safety for pedestrians travelling along downtown Port Colborne streets.

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■ **HEALTHY LIVING:** Smoking incompatible with use

Port woman fighting clouds at Vale Centre

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Angela Benito believes some people have misunderstood the name of Port Colborne's new recreational facility.

The Vale Health and Wellness Centre is supposed to be a hub for healthy living and activity, she says, and yet people can often be found taking on an unhealthy habit right outside its doors.

Benito says it's not uncommon to walk through a cloud of smoke while heading into the Elizabeth St. facility. She goes there daily to train for an upcoming marathon, often bringing along her children who participate in on-site programming.

“

It's one thing to have the signs, but if you're not enforcing them they're not worth the metal they're printed on.”

Angela Benito

Port Colborne community services manager Harry Hakim says complaints regarding smoking have rolled in since the centre opened in February. The city put up no smoking signs, advising smokers to head 27 metres away from the entrances before they start puffing.

Since the signs went up about three weeks ago, complaints have lessened significantly, he says.

Benito believes the problem remains, especially during times when hockey is underway and crowds pack into the centre's two ice pads.

Not one to bite her tongue, she's more than once asked smokers to move away from the doors and has been met with what she says is belligerent behaviour by some.

She's hoping the city will step in to further enforce the signs it has in place, otherwise she may find a new place to hit the gym.

“It's one thing to have the signs, but if you're not enforcing them they're not worth the metal they're printed on.”



Angela Benito feels the signs outside the Vale Health and Wellness Centre have not prevented smokers from lighting up right outside the facility's doors. The mother-of-three, pictured with 13-month-old daughter Sophia, wants to see further action from the City of Port Colborne.

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

“We're not talking one or two smokers. Sometimes there are 15 people outside smoking,” she says. “You can actually see the smoke hanging in the air.”

Hakim believes it's “all part of an education process,” as the facility has only been open for a few months. The

signs deter smokers “95% of the time or better,” he says, it's just a matter of reaching that remaining 5%.

Issues mainly arise during tournaments, be it addies and other events that draw large crowds from out of town that are not familiar with the centre's policies.

Benito wants to see the city's bylaw enforcement on site to issue fines, but there's a problem: Port Colborne does not currently have a bylaw in place prohibiting smoking in outdoor public spaces.

Because it hasn't put signs in place at the Vale centre, however, the city does still

have recourse against unruly smokers, Hakim says. It could evoke the Petty Trespass Act and have violators removed from the property.

Regional council is considering implementing a bylaw to prohibit outdoor smoking on all regional- and municipally-owned propert-

ties, though it has yet to be approved.

Hakim plans to sit down with Benito to discuss her concerns in hopes of having them addressed appropriately.

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ourview

Sacrifice of canal construction victims must be recognized

He was just 15 years old when a fall from a lock wall cost him his life.

Antonio Collini was a water boy from Italy, who became one of the 124 workers to die during construction of the Welland Canal from 1825 to 1832.

And he wasn't the only teenager whose life was cut short. There were many others.

Some were smothered to their last breath, others electrocuted.

The average age at death was 34.9. The most common cause — being crushed.

They were struck by fallen ice, another by a shovelf, caught between railway cars... others drowned.

In one year alone, 28 lives were lost in the most unimaginable circumstances.

As if that wasn't enough, there's the heart-wrenching stories behind the lives lost.

The father and son killed on the same day in 1928. The worker who died within an hour of his first day on the job, crushed by a falling tree. In this terribly difficult case, despite multiple injuries he made it to the hospital alive, but died just as his wife arrived. His widow, who had little money, went on to raise six children on her own.

The tragedies touched many corners of the globe, with the deaths of thousands of nationalities from all over the world. British, Russian, Italian, Polish workers and, of course, Canadians died building the canal.

In those days, the loss of life while undergoing such major construction was expected. What wasn't expected was the broken promise to poignantly mark the lives of the fallen workers.

One of the largest losses of life on a public project in Canadian history — and a vow by the minister of the Crown to have a memorial in place for them when has come to nothing.

Arden Phair, the retired CEO of the St. Catharines Museum, has taken up the cause of the men who died building the economic heartbeat of Niagara.



WENDY METCALFE
OPINION

Today, *The Tribune* and QMI

Agency Niagara are backing that call. It's clear the venture needs community support. As a result, we are today launching an online petition. If you think the promise should be kept and join us in the belief that a fitting memorial is long overdue and rightfully deserved, please add your signature.

From there, we will bring the petition to the doors of politicians and key organizations in a bid to make the memorial a reality.

For a time, a potential tribute was frantically put together soon after the canal opened in 1825.

That was due in no small part to the rhetoric of Robert James Manton, then the minister of railways and canals, who called those who died heroes.

"Peace has its heroes as well as war, and in a construction job of this magnitude, with its daily risk and hazard, the sacrifices of human life seems to be unavoidable," Manton declared at the canal's official opening.

"In due course, we shall see that the names of these workers and their families will be inscribed on an enduring portion of the great structure that rises not only as a monument to their effort and their lives, but to the efforts of the thousands of working men and engineering helpers whose unrelenting toil often in the face of untiring difficulty and discouragement, made possible the triumph of the present hour."

Phair said that within a few years, talk of a memorial stopped.

He believes it is a glaring omission that needs to be corrected. And he's not the only one.

Wendy Metcalfe is regional content director for Sun Media Niagara and southern Ontario.

COLUMN

I've been thinking about marriage

FR DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT

St Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

The purpose of marriage is journeying to salvation with another. This was the key theme in a retreat on sexual passions and addictions held recently in Hamilton. This purpose of marriage is what clergy should emphasize in marriage preparation sessions. Marriage is meant by the Creator to be a man and a woman's journey toward salvation.

Salvation is more than one's first response to the love and grace of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Salvation is more than justification by faith. Salvation is also the lifelong journey to the perfection of holiness, which is essentially outgoing, sacrificial love. Salvation is also sanctification.

God is love, said St John in his first letter. God's love was revealed in Christ's sacrificial self-giving on the cross. A Christian husband and wife are called to live this kind of sacrificial self-giving love and caring in their daily life.

The Biblical model is that the man is the head and the woman is the helpmeet. Each is essential. A contemporary image would be driving life.

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The wife is the helper and the man is the provider.

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LETTERS

Readers share their thoughts

is it green?

Re: Vale addition to feed solar cell sector

The misguided environmentalists wannabees are at it again. If it's seen as 'green' they would be 'good' and no questions asked.

If the coal plant at

Newcastle that it could continue to produce cheap energy at around 90+ % efficiency, and at the same time had the technology to reduce harmful emissions by up to 97%, there would be howls of disbelief from the environmentalists and the weak and ignorant provincial and regional governments would bow to their protests as they have in the past.

If the Canadian nuclear industry, still with a 100% safety record, stated that investment in new nuclear technology could produce energy safely and at around 90+ % efficiency, with those same environmentalists would prevent it happening.

Not investing in both of the above only result in the continuing loss of Ontario jobs.

But merely whisper solar cells, a handful of new 'green' jobs in Niagara and the whole world is somehow a better and more environmental friendly place?

Tellurium Dioxide, sounds so safe and natural doesn't it?

It's only mildly toxic

and they don't think it's a carcinogen. It also may be a teratogen but they're not sure. Teratogen? Can cause birth defects amongst other things.

And the solar cell technology it will be used to support remains entirely dependent on other manmade toxins and carcinogens, some of which the technology still does not exist to recycle safely.

The claimed biodegradable, and so allegedly environmentally friendly, solar technology relies on a nano-technology that is still little understood and produces materials that do degrade and far too fast to have any benefit for a long term solar industry. To confirm

these facts I recommend anyone interested researches the solar industries own websites.

The other 'green' energy, wind, still supplies less than half of 1% of the world's energy needs. Worldwide solar produces even less and will remain insignificant for the foreseeable future.

So in return for an energy product grossly overpriced, by subsidies guaranteed by our tax dollars, the solar industry will supply a minimal amount of unreliable energy whilst contributing a recycling nightmare already in place and growing with every solar project approved. A nightmare that our children will have to deal with, and pay for, on top of the

taxes they will continue to pay to satisfy the 20 years guaranteed FIT contracts this government approves for every wind and solar project.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

a foul manner, if they or their corporate sponsors pay for it.

However, the government is going to fund this nonsense with taxpayer money. We are all going to be forced to pay for attacks on the Liberal Party. Liberals will be paying for attacks on themselves.

Wake up Canada. Enough is enough. The people in this government have no respect for your democratic rights. They will do whatever it takes to maintain their hold on power. We can't wait for the next election. Write to your MP and tell them not to spend your money on their political fights.

David Fowler
Wainfleet

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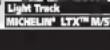
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■ THE WATER'S FINE



JORDAN AUBERTIN Tribune Photo

Bud Symons of Hamilton, scuba diving in the Welland Recreation Canal. Symons has been scuba diving for about 18 years and said the canal is a "safe and easy place" to learn to scuba dive.

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■ ACCOLADES: Mariah Bunz led Pelham to an Aviva Community fund victory that netted \$115,000 for a skatepark

Crossley teen earns prestigious medal

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — It was a phone call in early April through which Mariah Bunz learned she would be one of this year's recipients of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers.

Unbeknownst to her, Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn had nominated her to be one of this year's recipients.

The Wainfleet teen who attends E.L. Crossley Secondary School is one of nine youths recognized with the medal that was presented by Lieutenant Governor David Onley during a ceremony at Queen's Park last week.

"It's a very prestigious award," Augustyn said of the honour established in 1998 to recognize youths aged 15 to 24 who have contributed to their communities.

Bunz was selected for encouraging Pelham to support her plan for an Aviva Community Fund competition to create a safe town skatepark. She felt compelled to act after fellow student Isaac Rehli was struck by a car while longboarding on Foss Rd. last fall and later died.

Because of her efforts, the skatepark project was

awarded a \$115,000 grant — and the Town of Pelham has committed to matching the funds.

When Bunz began her Aviva campaign, she never expected her effort would leave a lasting impact on the community, nor could the Crossley student predict that *Canada AM* would announce the Isaac Rehli Skate Park winner of the Aviva Fund competition in a live broadcast from her high school.

"No, I never thought anything like this would happen. You can't expect to ever make it onto national television."

When the Lieutenant governor presented Bunz with the award, he was already aware of what the teen had done for her community.

Bunz said Onley's son, a Cogeco volunteer, was one of several people who had interviewed her on camera after she learned her idea had won funding.

The teen said receiving the volunteer award was a surreal experience for her.

"I was really nervous and I can't believe it. It was overwhelming and it was a huge honour."

As a volunteer, a humble Bunz said she never intended to receive any recognition for her work.

She is grateful for the experience that promoting a skatepark has brought her. It has taught her a lot about "life lessons."

"It means a lot to me," Bunz said about her medal.

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"But it's still all for Isaac. To be able to do this for his family is what really matters. As a volunteer, you don't expect to ever be recognised."

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca
Twitter: *s_ferguson25*



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

E.L. Crossley student Mariah Bunz holds her Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers. At left, Isaac Rehli.

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Application for Additional Facilities

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PORT COLBORNE (Indoor and outdoor area)
Deadline for submissions: May 7, 2013

Any resident of the municipality may make a written submission as to whether the issuance of the licence is in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents. Please include your name, address and telephone number. If a petition is submitted to the Commission, please identify the designated contact person. Note: The AGCO gives the applicant copies of any objections. Anonymous objections are not considered.

The personal information gathered is collected under the authority of the *Liquor Licence Act*. The principal purpose of the collection is to administer and regulate the issuance of a liquor sales licence. Copies of all objections are given to the applicant. The information may also be disclosed pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Manager, Licensing and Registration, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario at the address, telephone numbers or e-mail address listed below.

Submissions to be sent to: Licensing and Registration, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, 99 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M2N 0A4
Tel: 416-326-8700 OR Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-522-2876.
Fax: 416-326-5555. E-mail: licensing@agco.on.ca

Pour des renseignements en français concernant cette demande de licence, veuillez communiquer avec le directeur de la délivrance des permis, Commission des alcools et des jeux de l'Ontario, 99, rue Sheppard Est, bureau 200, Toronto, ON M2N 0A4. Tel.: 416 326-8700 ou 1 800 522-2876 (interurbains sans frais en Ontario). Téléc. : 416 326-5555.
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■ **SENIORS HOUSING:** 'What a schmoezle that thing was' — MPP Kim Craitor

Long wait nearly over for long-term care beds

ALLAN BENNER
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — After a whopping six years of waiting, Welland might yet see 96 long-term care beds promised by the provincial government become a reality.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced Monday a contract to build a long-term care facility — a project first announced in August

2007 — has been awarded to Penetanguishene-based Jarlette Health Services, a company that operates 18 long-term care and retirement homes across Ontario.

"This comes as welcome news to Doug Rapelje, who has spent years lobbying for the beds since plans to build the facility were announced."

"It's wonderful news. A red-letter day for Welland as far as providing long-term care beds," said Rapelje, chair of Welland's seniors citizens advisory committee. "It's been a long haul when you consider that it was announced more than five years ago."

He estimated there are between 350 and 1,200 people in the Welland and Pelham areas waiting for placement in long-term care facilities.

The city, he added, lost 107 long-term care beds when Sunset Haven was decommissioned and replaced by two smaller facilities — Rapelje Lodge and Woodlands of Sunset.

Now that plans to build the new facility are again moving

forward, Rapelje said it means the area will recoup most of those beds.

"For many it's a real hardship if they have to accept a bed in other communities," Rapelje said.

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor called the 96-bed home "long overdue."

The beds were promised by then health minister George Smitherman. The facility was initially to be built by Vaughan-based Specialty Care as part of a 160-bed long-term care home on Webber Rd. The facility — as well as 20 townhouses and a commercial plaza planned for the site — were never constructed.

"What a schmoezle that thing was," Craitor said, referring to the failed plan. "I was so frustrated with it... Come on, how long do people get to keep a licence for these beds?"

Now that Jarlette Health Services has been awarded the contract, Craitor said "we've been guaranteed that this company is going to go ahead."

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■ HUMOUR

In memory of the Iron Lady herself

I'm easily confused so when I saw these two headlines - "Ice Lady buries ex-husband" and "Iron Lady buried" - I thought there must be some mistake.

Fabrizio Carranza, Austria's "Ice Lady" was recently given a life sentence for shooting her lover and ex-husband at close range, cutting up their corpses with a chainsaw, deep-freezing them and later burying them under an ice cream parlour which she owned. The court was told she had taken courses in both shooting and concrete mixing prior to the murder. Presumably the operation of a chainsaw came naturally to her.

Margaret Thatcher, buried two weeks ago at the age of 87 would never have committed such atrocities. She wouldn't have to. She could have cut both men into pieces with the sharpness of her tongue.

"In politics, if you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman."

Tough! Who's the most hard-and-uncompromising male/politician you can think off? Churchill, Reagan, de Gaulle? I doubt one of them could watch ten men starve themselves to death as Margaret Thatcher did. Ten IRA militants beginning with the charismatic Bobby Sands died on hunger strikes while Thatcher flatly refused to meet their demands to be treated as political prisoners.

No connection between the "Ice Lady" who hacked her husband and the Iron Lady, but a few years ago I was walking past the Savoy Hotel in Madela when a double-decker tour bus pulled up. Margaret Thatcher loved swanky hotels so much she chose to die in one. The young Portuguese tour guide struggled a bit with her English when she pointed at the five-star Savoy and said: "This of course is the place that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher spent



WILLIAM THOMAS
HUMOUR

her honeymoon with her unfortunately dead husband."

to Maggie Thatcher. About 75% loved her for ruthlessly changing Britain's economy and the old English ways and 25% hate her still for doing exactly the same thing. Graffiti on walls after her death like: "Iron Lady - Bust in Peace" were not written by well-

no coal!"

The news videos of people dancing in the streets and burning the woman in effigy in Yorkshire and Northern Ireland were ghoulish, not unlike the clips of radical collapsus celebrating the collapse of New York City's twin towers. While enjoying

around me was disgusted, and looking back, I suppose I was out of order. Especially as I was the first paramedic at the scene."

Posted another: "I was very upset to hear about Mrs. Thatcher's death. She died peacefully."

Thatcher's death gave

To say Margaret Thatcher never suffered fools gladly is wrong. If I didn't seem such an abuse of power, she'd have had them put in jail. "The Iron Lady" could never be accused of being magnanimous - if she wanted your opinion she'd write it down for you.

Gloating at fellow conservatives who wanted her to ease up on her ruthless economic policies, from the podium she told them that when she retired she was going to start a business and it would be called "Rent-A-Spine."

Which is why my fondest memory of Margaret Thatcher will always be the one provided by the cruel but hilarious television show Splitting Images.

The comedy troupe used exaggerated, ghoulish-looking puppets of British politicians in their sketches and Thatcher was the best and most frequent target.

The scene is in a restaurant with Thatcher sitting around a dining table with her mostly male cabinet.

Waitress: "What'll it be Lady Thatcher?"

Thatcher: "I'll have a steak."

Waitress: "How would you like it?"

Thatcher: "Raw."

Waitress: "And the vegetables?"

Thatcher, after looking around the table says: "Oh, they'll have what I'm having."

In all great humour, the punch line is never far from the truth.

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I remember reading somewhere that Margaret's husband Denis was not a real firecracker but being described as dead-on-arrival at the wedding bed was a bit harsh. If true, it would have been one of the few times the bellhop carried the groom across the threshold on the wedding night.

I doubt there is a Brit alive whose emotions reside in neutral zone when it comes

wishers.

The twitter tag announcement of her death read: "#nowthatshersdead". Read it again. Yeah, Cher must have thought: "Ops, one too many tushy tucks!"

Margaret Thatcher's will stipulated that she be cremated but, as people in Northern England who live in areas still devastated by her closing of the mines were quick to point out: "We've got

all the macabre merrymaking surrounding her death, one partygoer said: "It's about time Thatcher did something to raise community spirit!"

The depth of hostility still felt by certain sectors of Great Britain was matched only by the depravity of the jokes posted after her death. "When I realized Margaret Thatcher was dead, I did a fist pump and shouted: ----- brilliant! Everyone

former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney a few more minutes of media attention. Both contemporaries, staunch right wingers and fervent free marketers, they differed in that the Iron Lady's career was never dogged by scandal or shame. Although Thatcher was only too pleased to watch corporations rule her country's economy, she never asked for her cut.



■ NORCLIFF FARMS: Sixth annual event

Fundraiser for SickKids on Friday night

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Fresh off of his Iron Chef Niagara win, Lookout Point Country Club executive chef Abbey Solomon, former battle executive chef Dian Leblanc and Jonathan Vlau in another charity fundraiser this coming Friday.

The three top chefs are taking part in NorCliff Farms' sixth annual So You Think You Can Cook Fiddlehead Culinary Competition — to be held at Gospis Restaurant in Toronto — a fundraiser for The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

While the focus is on fundraising for the hospital, the cooking competition is being held in memory of SickKids patient Mirandra Bauer, who was to be the hospital's ambassador at the event.

Bauer, from Niagara Falls, was diagnosed with rhab-

domyosarcoma, a cancer of the connective tissues, shortly after her 16th birthday. She died this past March at age 17 after a second diagnosis of cancer.

She was a music lover and

bass player, which inspired fun for rhabdomyosarcoma research at SickKids.

"We chose to support SickKids because of the amazing work they do in our community — we want the best care for our children and we are thankful to have the hospital available to us," said Nick Secord, NorCliff Farms owner and company president.

Solomon, Leblanc, the Chef de Cuisine at Niagara College's Barrie campus, Rob Bainford, Vlau, from The Distillery in Toronto, will compete to see who can create the best fiddlehead appetizer, main or dessert.

"Many people are not

familiar with fiddleheads, so we started the event to show how easy it is to incorporate fiddleheads into a variety of meals," said Secord.

Each dish will be judged by some of



ostrich ferns, and are similar in flavour to broccoli, asparagus and spinach, depending on how they are cooked.

Fiddleheads are found along freshwater ways throughout Canada.

The green vegetable is the early tender growth of the ostrich fern, and named for the top part of a fiddle, which it resembles.

The event will be held at Gospis Restaurant, and is open to the public.

Tickets are \$100 each, and all proceeds support rhabdomyosarcoma research at SickKids.

Each ticket includes wine, appetizers, salad, dinner, dessert, coffee and tea.

For more information, see norcliff.ca/cooking-contest/2013-culinary-competition.

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inPortbriefs**COMMUNITY CLEANUP**

POR T COLBORNE — The lakeside city's environmental advisory committee held a community cleanup in support of Earth Day.

About 25 volunteers participated in the cleanup along local trails and through Lock 8 Park.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny said at Monday's council meeting that she was "disappointed" at the amount of trash littered throughout the park in particular.

"The ground is not the place to throw your garbage ... This is your community, help to keep it clean."

**PARKING AN ISSUE
AT SKATEPARK**

POR T COLBORNE — Angie Desmarais is happy the new Algopoint Skatepark has been busy since opening quietly earlier this month, but she's since received complaints about the actions of visitors to the new facility.

Parking has become an issue in the area, the Ward 2 councillor said during Monday's council meeting. Instead of parking in the designated spots at Lock 8 Park, drivers are parking illegally along Melimby Ave.

"It's an accident waiting to happen," Desmarais said. She asked staff to look into the parking issue, as well as the issue of people bringing dogs off-leash to the park.

**CITY STUDYING
RURAL TRANSIT**

POR T COLBORNE — The city is looking to determine whether there's a need for transit services in rural Port Colborne.

A potential pilot project is being looked at by Port Colborne's transit advisory committee in conjunction with its senior advisory committee, but it needs to be determined whether there is interest first, said Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet.

Those who feel they would benefit from rural public transit are asked to contact Ward 4 Councillor Barbara Burton at 905-834-4005 and Ian Hodder at 905-834-6269 to express interest.

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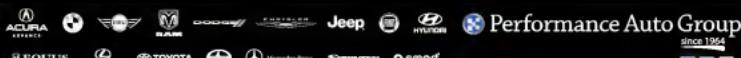
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■ COMMUNITY

Port High prom fundraiser

ALICIA CROWE
For InPort News

Prom, prom, prom.
The season of prom is sweeping the halls of Port Colborne High School. The

Blue Bear Prom Committee has been fundraising to cover the cost. Prom will be held on June 14 at The Amici Banquet Centre.

In November, the Blue Bears held a very successful

pasta night. A dinner for two could be purchased for \$10. All money went to the Grade 12 2013 prom.

"The last past night we had was very successful, I am looking forward to

our next one," Samantha Redmond, a member of prom committee said.

On May 9, the Blue Bears will be holding another pasta dinner. Dinner must be pre ordered and picked

up between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. To preorder a dinner you must e-mail samantha_redmond@hotmail.com or a-crowe33@hotmail.com. A dinner for two will cost \$10. Orders will

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■ ENVIRONMENT

Canopies for Kids takes root

There's a new shade of green coming to select Niagara elementary schools.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will be continuing its Canopies for Kids program from April 29 to May 3.

The program, designed for kids in Grades 1 to 8, will see trees planted in 10 school selected to participate this year. Locally, that will include DeWitt Carter Public School in Port Colborne.

Canopies for Kids provides students with shade from the sun in their respective

school yard, while also offering a chance to learn about the trees as part of a science-based curriculum.

There is no cost for schools to participate in the program,

courtesy of sponsorship from WaterSmart Niagara and the St. Catharines Green Committee.

According to the NCPA, shade from trees can reduce

asthma rates caused by poor air quality, contribute to an increase in physical activity and mood improvement, and promote psychological well-being.



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■ **LAKWOOD CAMP:** Beach being abused

Neighbours furious with partying beachgoers



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

In this file photo, a building at the former Lakewood Camp site empty. A neighbour that lives beside the property, and other area residents, are fed up with day- and night-long parties on the beach of the property.

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DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — A neighbour who lives beside the site of the former Lakewood Camp is fed up with day- and night-long parties on the beach of what once was an Easter Seals camp.

And she says the behaviour of those illegally using the private beach is disturbing and distressful.

Lee Bott, whose property backs on to the beach and property, came before Wainfleet council last week to ask that something be done to prevent people from using the beach.

Bott said the issue was not with people who walk the beach or use it to swim, but rather with people who party on the property and tear apart the former camp buildings to use as firewood for bonfires.

"During the warm weather months, this beach has become a popular destination for beachgoers. It is a beautiful beach and we do realize that Lakewood Camp has been closed since 2004 so people figure it's free and accessible to whoever wants to use it."

Even when Easter Seals owned the property, sold in 2004, there

were issues with people abusing the beach.

"During that time, because Easter Seals owned the property, they were able to call police and get protection," said Bott.

When developers Dan Rasetti and Ralph Terrio bought Lakeshore, the buildings, including a great hall, staff and camp-goer buildings were left behind. Those buildings have since been set on fire, had furniture smashed, fireworks set off inside, ATVs ridden through them and suffered a lot of damage.

Bott said despite trespassing signs put up by the two men, people still treat the property as if they can do anything they wanted on it.

"It's a regular occurrence to have a group of people show up on the weekend to have paintball wars."

Said he the two men

"The owners are furious. The neighbours are furious. The locals can't even go to the beach on weekends because of the crowds."

Bott said it's mostly people from outside the area who abuse the beach, though some new residential owners in the area believe it is their taxpayer right to use the property however they want.

"It is not. That is private property," she said.

Township CAO Scott Luey said there's no "silver bullet solution" to the problem, but said the property owners have always been cooperative with the township on past issues with the property.

He said the pair were in township hall recently making formal inquiries regarding building demolition, which could resolve some of the concerns.

"Hopefully they'll go through with it," he said.

Mayor April Jeffs is meeting Monday night with Regional Police to discuss Beach Day in Wainfleet and said she'd bring up the issue of the beach at Lakewood at the time.

She also said the township can work with the property owners to come up with a solution to the problem.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
This sign's message doesn't hold true today.

■ BEAR CUB FIT CLUB: Port High feeder schools fed good eating tips



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Rebecca Bouton helps teach more than 180 students from six different elementary schools in Port Colborne a dance routine Monday afternoon as part of Port Colborne High School's Bear Cub Fit Club activities.

Fit Club introduces elementary children to healthy living

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — An active body fuelled by nutritious food can help students learn more effectively.

That was a message fed to more than 180 grades 3 and 4 students from six elementary schools in Port Colborne and Wainfleet who descended on Port Colborne High School this week to take part in Bear Cub Fit Club activities.

Principal Nigel Evans said the event is a great way to introduce students to the importance of a fun way.

"It's also a good way to get them to think about healthy living and nutrition which is important when it comes to learning," he said.

Each student made their own pizza



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Carly Sorge, left, Owen Morningstar and Dakota Milot from Oakwood Public School in Port Colborne spend Monday afternoon with students from five other elementary schools at Port Colborne High School that were taking part in Bear Cub Fit Club activities as part of Earth Day and Education Week.

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■ AUTHORS SERIES: Famous broadcaster appears at Roselawn Centre

Lloyd Robertson reveals personal life in new book

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — It's never wise to try and bluff your audience.

The something veteran broadcaster Lloyd Robertson carried with him throughout his 60 year career in radio and television.

It was a lesson he learned early on when he was on radio station CJOT in Guelph in 1953.

Robertson had overslept for his shift and when he made it to the station, the phones were ringing off the hook and there was nothing but static and silence over the radio station's frequencies.

"The phones were ringing like crazy, so I took them off their hooks. I did the radio station ID and played Doris Day ..." Robertson told a packed house at Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne last week during the second

to last Canadian Authors Reading Series.

He was reading from his memoir *The Kind of Life It's Been*, sharing stories of his career, his life and answering questions from people in the audience.

The audience heard that it was an old radio trick to pretend like nothing happened, or make people feel like their radios weren't working, but staff at the station didn't let Robertson get away with it.

After being introduced by reading series founder, and local author, William Thomas, Robertson spoke about being at Roselawn eight years ago and being asked whether he'd write a book.

"It was a challenge ... what kind of book would I write, something about journalism, politics or international affairs. I decided to make it a personal story," he said.

see ROBERTSON | A19



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Veteran broadcaster Lloyd Robertson speaks at the second to last Canadian Authors Reading Series at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne on Thursday night. He was reading from his memoir *The Kind of Life It's Been*. Just behind Robertson is Wainfleet author and reading series founder Bill Thomas.

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■ ROBERTSON



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Veteran broadcaster Lloyd Robertson signed copies of his memoir, *The Kind of Life It's Been*, after speaking at the Canadian Authors Reading Series at the Roselawn Centre.

Robertson shares stories about radio, television

FROM PAGE A18

When he brought up the idea about writing about his life, his friend and fellow newsmen Craig Oliver told him "you don't have much of a life."

While sharing radio stories and television stories, Robertson brought out the personal side of his life, revealing the struggle he had as young boy.

"My father was 60 when I was born and was sick a lot in my early years ... my mother didn't know how to cope."

Robertson said his mother had mental illnesses that made it hard for the family.

"I remember visiting her in the St. Thomas psychiatric hospital ... that left a mark on me."

He resolved then to try and help understand the series of mental illness, especially after hearing the screams and cries come from various rooms in that hospital.

With no drugs available to doctors at the time, his mother was given a lobotomy, which left her in a "perpetual marble calm" as described in Sylvia Plath's *Bell Jar*.

"She had no emotional response to anything. She asked me why I was crying after my father's funeral."

Robertson also shared the fun times of his career, in particular one incident concerning his hair.

"We had a new set and the top lights made my grey hair shine, making it looking grayer than it was."

In an effort to try and tone it down, Robertson went to see someone

about dyeing it a lighter colour — he ended up with dark brown hair.

As he made his way into the studio, there were many sideways glances, giggles and surprised looks.

Two stylists were sent to correct the colour, were made, leaving him with blonde and blue streaks at times. Finally, a stylist at CTV was able to come up with a solution that worked and brought his hair back to a lighter grey.

Audience members heard that one question that was always asked of him when he wasn't on the air was, "who is doing the news tonight?"

"My wife and I were in Venice, riding a gondola on the canals when I heard, shouted from a bridge above, 'Who is doing the news tonight, Lloyd?' I yelled back, 'Why aren't you at home watching and telling me,'" he said as the audience laughed.

Asked about the future of television, Robertson said, "We are in a revolution now."

"There are so many media distractions these days ... you can get your news from anywhere."

But, he said, despite social media, people in Canada do care where they get their news from and will care more in the future. A survey showed 9 of 10 Canadians trusted television news and only 1 in 4 Canadians found social media reliable.

"Things like social media can supplement news coverage," he said.

Up next in the series, on Thursday, May 30, is Canadian comedian and actor Don Heron.

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■ HISTORY

124 dead, forgotten for 80 years

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

When she was alone in the dark, when the day had settled and she was tucked in, Anne Connon heard the whispers.

Incessant muttering, hard to make out. It was her mother's voice, Connon knew that much. She also knew when the whispers started. They began after her father's first day of work on the Welland Canal. That first day that was also his last.

Michael Onyszczuk hadn't steady work in two years. It was 1932 and the Great Depression was into its fourth grueling year. But in St. Catharines, the construction of the Welland Canal offered the promise of hot meals and clothes for the children. If you could get hired on.

"A boarder in our house was working on the canal and was sick, so my father went to him in for him," Connon says. "They found a matter of bodies. You didn't register or anything." Connon says today. "He hoped if he did a good job, he'd be able to work there regularly."

On that first day on the

job, that last day, Onyszczuk was part of a crew clearing trees. One of them fell on him. The 35-year-old Ukrainian immigrant tried to escape its path. He failed.

Onyszczuk left behind six children and a widow who whispered in the dark every night.

"It wasn't until later that I figured out what she was doing," Connon says. "She was praying, asking for everything to be all right."

Onyszczuk was the 121st man to be killed during the 19 years it took to build the Welland Canal. Three more would die on the job before the canal was officially opened.

When the project began, someone in Ottawa crunched the numbers. No project of the scale of the Welland Canal could be built without a cost in blood. They expected one man to die for every million dollars spent on building the canal.

"It cost about \$130 million to build. At least 124 men died. They were pretty tame," says Arden Phair, the retired curator of the St. Catharines Museum, who has taken up the cause of the men who died building the economic heartbeat of Niagara.



St. Catharines Museum John Kennedy Collection

A photo of damage caused by a fatal accident in 1928 at Lock 6 in Thorold during the construction of the fourth Welland Canal. Nine men died after a 500-ton steel lock gate fell to the lock floor after a locomotive-powered crane toppled into the lock cavern, knocking over the gate.

All he and a handful of other historians and researchers who have looked into the past of the canal want is for Ottawa to make good on a promise to recognize the fallen.

"A minister of the Crown said, when the canal

opened, there would be a memorial to these men," Phair says. "It was one of the largest losses of life on a public project in Canadian history. I think it's a promise that should be kept."

For a time, a potential memorial was front-page

news soon after the canal opened in 1928. It was due to a small error in a speech of Robert James Manlon, then the minister of railways and canals, who called those who died heroes.

"Peace has its heroes as well as war, and in a con-

struction job of this magnitude, with its daily risk and hazard, the sacrifices of human life seems to be unavoidable," Manlon declared at the canal's official opening.

see CANAL A22

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■ CANAL

Historian wants to see long-promised memorial made reality

FROM PAGE A20

"In due course we shall see that the names of these workmen are suitably preserved and made an enduring portion of the great structure that was not only as a monument to their effort and their lives, but to the efforts of the thousands of working men and engineering helpers whose unremitting toil, often in the face of difficulty and discouragement, made possible the triumph of the present hour."

Phale says that within a few years, talk of a memorial faded to black. The names of the dead were not even included in the official 1932 chronicle of the canal titled *The Welland Ship Canal*.

Given the number of lives lost and the critical economic and cultural role the canal has played

in Niagara and the nation, Phair believes it is a glaring omission that needs to be corrected.

Official records show names of the 124 men who died in the early days of the canal's construction. Some were crushed, like those who died in the famous gate collapse of 1928. Others were electrocuted or drowned. Electroliers lingered for a time after suffering grievous wounds.

But it is not just the lives lost, Phair says. It was those left behind, like Onyszczuk, Julianina, who had to raise six children in the midst of the Great Depression on her own.

"I said to my mother years

later, 'I don't know how you managed it,'" Connon says. "She told me that she did what she had to do."

Everything changed when her dad was crushed by a trolley. Connon remembers his funeral vividly. Her mother and sister crying. She wept, too, until she saw him in the open casket.

"I thought he was sleeping, so I stopped crying," she says. "What goes through the mind of a child?"

Her mother kept the boarders for a while. The rent came in handy. But with the canal completed, work dried up. The boarders were gone.

She worked at a cannery factory, getting up at 4 a.m. She worked in farm fields, picking fruit and preserving some of it to ensure the family had enough food in the winter.

"Mother would get a deal at Horrocks' Grocery store," Connon says. "They were Ukrainian also, and really admired how mom managed. They allowed her to buy on credit."

Phale says the story of Connon's mother is not unique. Many of the men who died working on the canal left behind families led by women were rare. By single mothers rarer still.

The lives of the men who died and the struggles of their families shouldn't be forgotten, he says.

Phale had a meeting with St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra about a month ago to try to make good on Manslon's promise still.

Dykstra was out of the country on government business last week, but his spokeswoman Karen Moncur says he supports



St. Catharines Museum Madeleine Muntz Collection

Concreting V.W. entrance wall of Lock 2, May 20, 1915. From photo album of J.L. Weller, superintending engineer on the fourth Welland Canal, from 1901 to 1918

Heritage. There is funding, she says, but any project will need a partnership with the community, either through local government funding or community fundraising.

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■ EATALY

Welcome to the family

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORTE COLBORNE —
Eataly Foods is making the world a bit more fair.

The restaurant was welcomed into Port Colborne's fair trade family earlier this week when it became part of Fair Trade Town.

Fair Trade Town committee member Tracy Tarran was excited to have Eataly as a partner.

"We're really growing," she said. "Port Colborne was the first Fair Trade Town in Ontario and one of the first three in Canada."

Eataly now carries fair trade Organic-Bio Coffee

Soda, Theocharma chocolates and Vittoria Coffee.

Owner Claudia Spiteri didn't know much about fair trade when the store, but her customers helped her learn.

"I started asking distributors about it and I hope to keep adding new products as they come up," she said.

Now she wants to help spread awareness about fair trade with Tarran and the committee.

"It makes me feel good to know that I am purchasing things from companies who treat and pay their employees well," Spiteri said.

For Tarran, purchasing the products and supporting the fair trade movement is her



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Spiteri into the fair trade family.

way of helping underprivileged countries.

"I know the farmers and those who work at co-oper-

atives are getting a fair wage and they are living a little better," she said.

World Fair Trade Day is

Saturday, May 11, but the committee will host a celebration at the market on Charlotte St. on Friday, May

10 with music, treats and samples from Fair Trade Town members.

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The Tribune on Saturday, May 11th, 2013

Be sure to have your copy and photo (if desired) to: The Tribune
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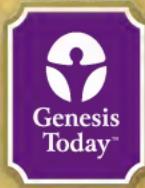
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